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About the Open Directory Project

The Open Directory Project is the largest, most comprehensive human-edited directory of the Web. It is constructed and maintained by a vast global community of volunteer editors.

The Republic of the Web

The web continues to grow at staggering rates. Automated search engines are increasingly unable to turn up useful results to search queries. The small paid editorial staffs at commercial directory sites can't keep up with submissions, and the quality and comprehensiveness of their directories has suffered. Link rot is setting in and they can't keep pace with the growth of the Internet.

Instead of fighting the explosive growth of the Internet, the Open Directory provides the means for the Internet to organize itself. As the Internet grows, so do the number of net-citizens. These citizens can each organize a small portion of the web and present it back to the rest of the population, culling out the bad and useless and keeping only the best content.

The Definitive Catalog of the Web

The Open Directory follows in the footsteps of some of the most important editor/contributor projects of the 20th century. Just as the Oxford English Dictionary became the definitive word on words through the efforts of a volunteers, the Open Directory follows in its footsteps to become the definitive catalog of the Web.

The Open Directory was founded in the spirit of the Open Source movement, and is the only major directory that is 100% free. There is not, nor will there ever be, a cost to submit a site to the directory, and/or to use the directory's data. The Open Directory data is made available for free to anyone who agrees to comply with our free use license.

The Internet Brain

The Open Directory is the most widely distributed data base of Web content classified by humans. Its editorial standards body of net-citizens provide the collective brain behind resource discovery on the Web. The Open Directory powers the core directory services for the Web's largest and most popular search engines and portals, including Netscape Search, AOL Search, Google, Lycos, HotBot, DirectHit, and hundreds of others.

You Can Make a Difference

Like any community, you get what you give. The Open Directory provides the opportunity for everyone to contribute.

Signing up is easy: choose a topic you know

something about and join. Editing categories is a snap. We have a comprehensive set of tools for adding, deleting, and updating links in seconds. For just a few minutes of your time you can help make the Web a better place, and be recognized as an expert on your chosen topic.

Join the Open Directory Project

1. Find a category that you would like to maintain.
2. Follow the [Become an Editor](#) link at the top of the category page.

Note that some categories do not have a [Become an Editor](#) link; you should find a more specific category which interests you, and apply there. Once you have joined, and gained some experience, you can apply for more general categories.

Further Information

- [General FAQ](#) - Want more info? Check out some general FAQs about us in our Help area.
- [Sites Using ODP Data](#) - Category listing of all sites, search engines, portals, etc. using the ODP RDF dump.
- [ODP in the Press](#) - News, articles and other reports about the ODP.
- [Linking to the ODP](#) - Show your support of the ODP by linking to us from your site.
- [Downloading ODP Data](#) - Get the Definitive Directory of the Web for your site. It's free

- and available to everyone.
- [Free Use License](#) - License governing use of ODP data.
- [Social Contract](#) - Our commitment and promise to all net-citizens to keep the ODP a free and open resource.
- [Awards](#) - Our site has won a number of awards.



Web as media type

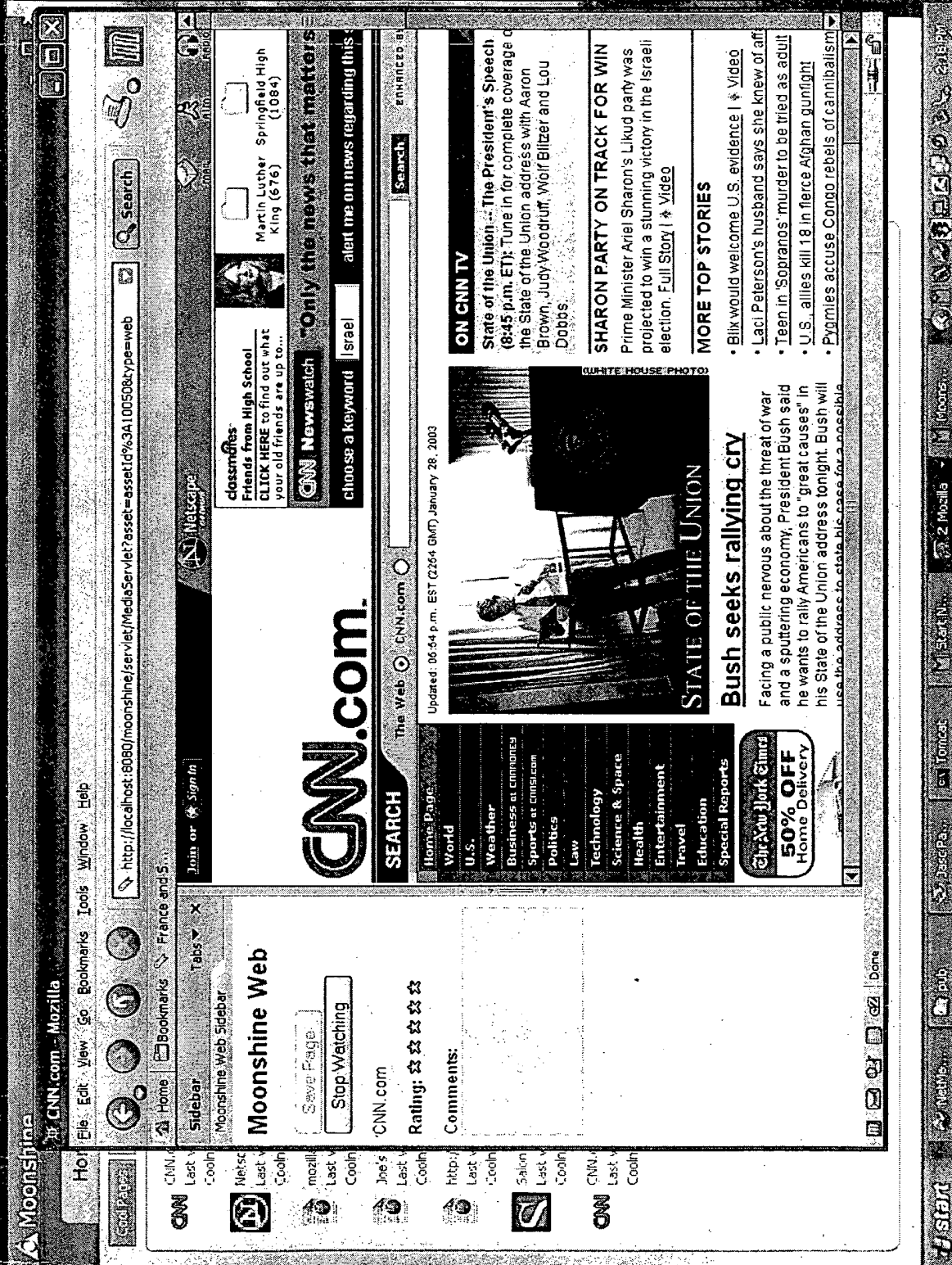
In Moonshine, the web is more than just a source of media – it is a media type in itself. Moonshine adds a companion to web browsing tools that displays metadata (e.g. rating, comments, category) and even allows capturing an image or web page.

The screenshot displays the Moonshine web browser interface. The top bar shows the address "http://www.cnn.com/" and navigation buttons like "File", "Edit", "View", "Go", "Bookmarks", "Tools", "Window", and "Help". Below the address bar is a "Moonshine Web Sidebar" with a "Moonshine Web" section. This sidebar includes a "Save Page" button, a "Stop Watching" button, a "Rating: ☆☆☆☆" display, a "Comments" section with a "Remember to watch Larry King show on Saturday 5/23" note, and a "Snapshots" section showing "Tuesday, January 28" and "Other sites from News". The main content area displays the CNN.com homepage, featuring a large image of a ship, a "Terror fears running high" headline, and various news stories. The bottom of the browser shows a "History" list with entries like "CNN.com", "Netsc", "mazz", "Joe's", "Htp", "Salon", and "CNN".



Web capturing

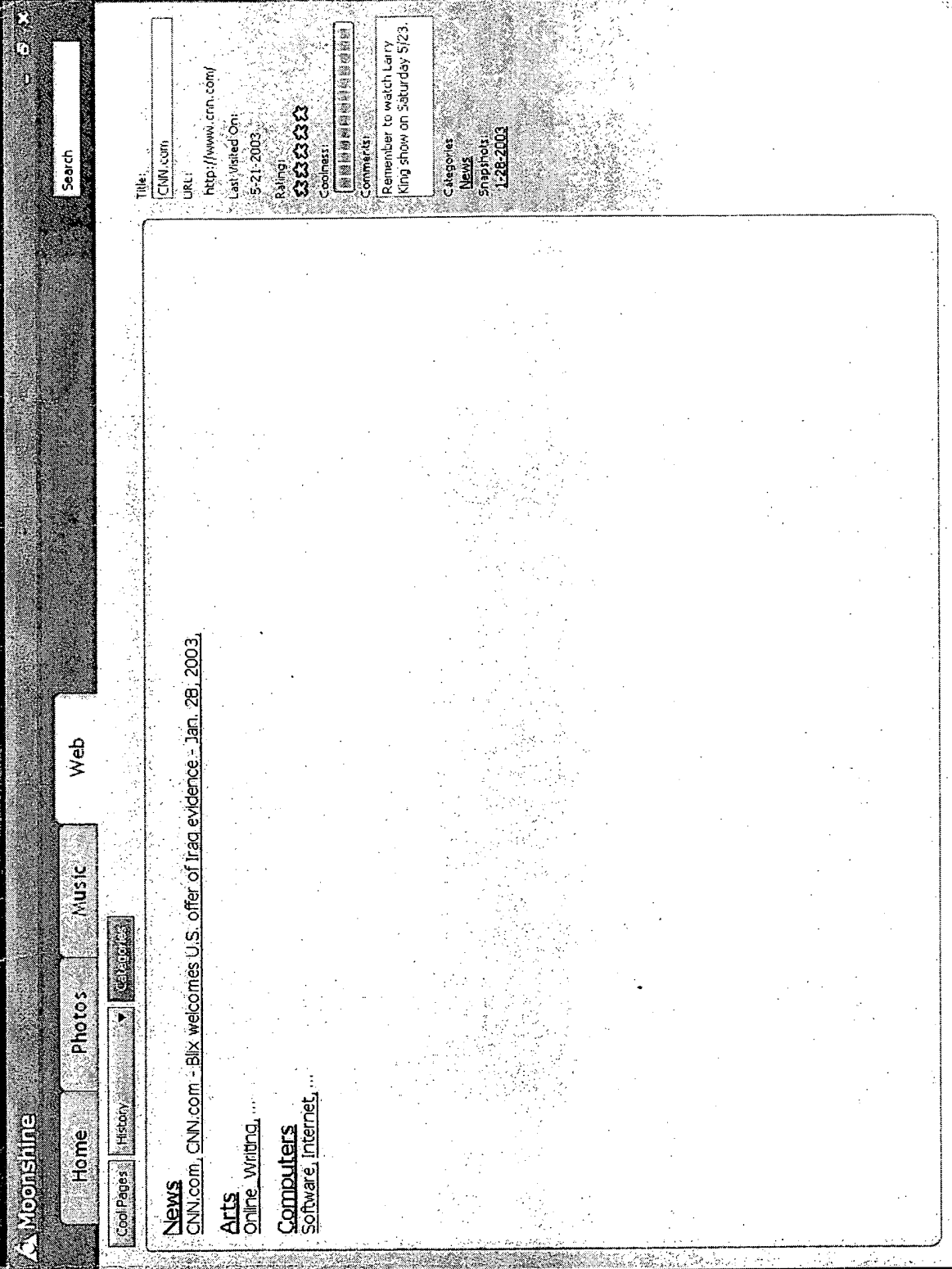
Captured web pages are made local and can then be viewed or searched at any time, even if the original changes. The pages (and embedded images) now become a permanent part of your media library.





Web categories

Another view is by category. In this case, the category of pages is acquired from an external source like Google. The resulting view is similar to a Yahoo or Open Directory Project view of your web history and library.



Zoom Web favorites and history

Web pages that are either part of your browsing history or have been captured locally can now be viewed in multiple ways, similar to other media types. One view is a passively personalized web favorites list. Another is a history (time-based) view.

